

April 2021
Theme: Fixing Our Eyes on Jesus (20/20 Vision)
"Focus on Jesus"

Summary: In a world full of chaos, confusion, and a drive for instant gratification, it is time for Christians to learn to focus on God and meditate on His Word.

Scriptures: Hebrews 12:1-2; Psalm 77; Psalm 46:10

Songs: "I Surrender All" *Rejoice*, page 483; "People Need the Lord" (Steve Green/YouTube); "Give Me Your Eyes" [Brandon Heath/YouTube (Official Music Video)]

Suggestions and Helps

Promotional Helps

Resources: Poster, invitation, and promo PowerPoint are available at
<http://www.wnac.org/treasure/programhelps>

This month try contacting the ladies in your church by phone, text, or Facebook Messenger, inviting them to the meeting. If you choose to do the service project below, encourage them to bring donations of old eyeglasses.

Presentation Ideas

Give the women a copy of the Jesus picture and have them try to see Jesus by following the instructions. Remind them that we can't just think of Jesus as a quick glance; we need to focus on Him.

Study

Encourage the ladies to do an in-depth study of Hebrews 12:1-2.

Missions

Ask each of your ladies to focus on one missionary family from your state. Ask them to pray for that family, read about their ministry, study the country or state where they are working, and send them a card of encouragement.

Service

Ask the ladies to bring old eyeglasses they no longer wear or collect them from the members of your church. Below are some ideas where they can be donated.

Lions Clubs collect old prescription eyeglasses, clean them, sort them by prescription and donate them to needy people around the world.
Find recycling centers all over the U.S. For specific locations, go to the

Lions Club website and search. You can also contact your local chapter and see if any local citizens are in need of eyewear.

Many optical centers around the U.S. double as collection centers for old prescription eyeglasses. The organization One Sight puts the glasses in the hands of trained volunteers who clean and prepare them for distribution to those in need at global and regional clinics. Ask about donating at your local Target or Sears Optical, Pearle Vision, Sunglass Hut, ILORI, Optical Shop of Aspen, LensCrafters or any other participating commercial or local optical center in the U.S., Puerto Rico or Canada.

Ask your local practitioner if he collects used prescription glasses for donation. If he does, you can leave your unneeded glasses with him. Don't hesitate to ask questions to find out where your glasses will go, such as to another country or to a North American family living in poverty.

Prayer

Have a season of prayer, asking the ladies to pray for wisdom to focus more on Jesus and less on the world.

Refreshments

To celebrate the year 2021, serve cups of 21 nuts, 21 crackers, or 21 M&M's (or other small snacks). Serve them in cupcake liners, or small cups, etc.

Extra

Give your ladies copies of the attached Word Search Puzzle which uses key words from the Bible Study. Award a prize to the first one to find all the words in the puzzle. An idea for the prize could be a small magnifying glass.

May 2021
Theme: Fixing Our Eyes on Jesus (20/20 Vision)
EYES OF LOVE
Part 1

Summary: Many times, we make the mistake of looking at someone and drawing an immediate negative conclusion about them. What would happen if everyone saw each other through eyes of love instead? That's how Jesus sees us. Others see flaws, sins, repulsion; Jesus sees a beloved soul that needs the grace and mercy He extended in His death and resurrection.

Scriptures: James 2:1-4, 8-9; Luke 8:43-48

Songs: "My Brother's Keeper" *Rejoice*, page 510; "To Be Like Jesus" *Rejoice*, page 470; "People Need the Lord" (Steve Green/YouTube); "Each One, Reach One" (Babbie Mason/YouTube)

Suggestions and Helps

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Prepare handouts announcing the date and time of your meeting and hand them out to every woman in your church, even those that you don't anticipate coming or may not "look" like everyone else. You could use one of the attached illustrations for the handouts.

Presentation Ideas

Display a poster or handouts for the ladies to study when they first come in before the meeting starts. The attached poster idea will remind them we need to see people through Jesus' eyes, which is different from the way we see others.

Study

Hand out copies of the attached story of the pastor disguising himself as a homeless man. Encourage them to watch the video (link at the bottom of the story) to watch the story played out.

Missions

Take up a love offering and send it to a center or mission work that ministers to homeless people.

Service

If you have a homeless shelter in your neighborhood or community, prepare "love bags" for the occupants. Give them toiletries, Bibles, devotion books, snacks, and treats, etc.

Prayer

Have a season of prayer and ask each lady to name someone they know who may not seem “lovely” on the outside but could be beautiful if they would accept Jesus into their lives. Encourage the ladies the next time they see that person to look at them through eyes of love. Include in their prayers to ask God to help them love the person as Jesus does.

Refreshments

Have heart shaped treats. If you want to be creative, make round or heart-shaped cookies wearing glasses. You could pipe them on if you have a cake decorating tip for drawing; or cut glasses out of cardstock. You may even be able to find mini cheap clear or sunglasses in the novelty section.

Extra

Have two people act out the attached skit to remind the ladies that we don’t always know what is going inside someone else’s lives and we need to try to look at them the way Jesus sees them.

EXAMPLES FOR HANDOUT ILLUSTRATIONS

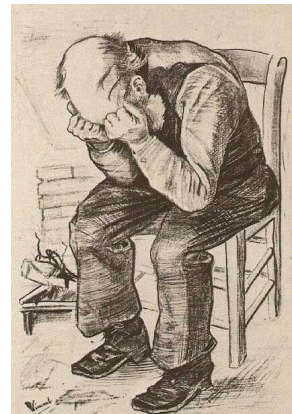
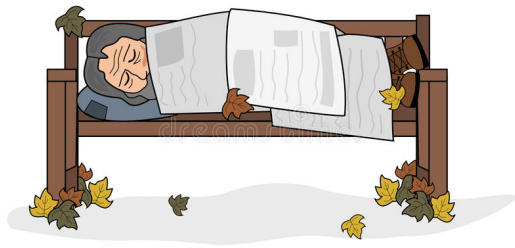


Suggested ideas for cookies:



We see...

Jesus sees....



Pastor James MacDonald Disguises Himself as Homeless Man to Measure Church's Compassion

Pastor James MacDonald recently performed a social experiment with his church and the results blew him away. The founder of the seven-campus Harvest Bible Chapel posted a video of an experiment where he dressed as a bearded homeless man and sat outside of two Harvest Bible Chapel campuses before Sunday services, observing the churchgoer's reactions to him. The Christian Post reports that MacDonald did the experiment to test his congregations' willingness to love their neighbor as themselves like the Bible commands. The video that MacDonald posted to his Facebook page on Monday, first shows MacDonald sitting in front of the church buildings with a cup for change, a sign, and a shopping cart. Then slowly, congregants begin to show up, and one by one they all walk by the disguised pastor, without a single person offering help. At one point, the video shows one man contemplating what he should do. The man walks toward and then away from MacDonald several times before finally deciding to just go inside the church. "The closer a person is to us and the less common the struggle, the easier it is to love," MacDonald says in the video. "God forbid I find out my wife has three months to live. I would quit my job and quit everything, right? What if it's just an acquaintance of yours and what if the problem is recurring... How common is homelessness? How frequently is the homeless person someone dear to us personally? Never," MacDonald proclaims. The video then shows MacDonald, still in his disguise, walk through the middle of the church sanctuary with his shopping cart and walk up on stage. MacDonald then takes off his disguise layer by layer revealing who was underneath the beard and ripped clothes. He said to the congregation, "So I took a few moments a couple of weeks ago and camped outside of a couple of our campuses and I wanted to see how we were doing when it is hardest to love." "Do you know that your father in Heaven is giving the same graces to the person that is hardest for you to love? He is giving it. He doesn't play favorites. He is giving the grace to everyone. If we are going to love like our father in Heaven loves, we don't get to have favorites. By favorites I mean, so often we love the people when there is some benefit in it for us," he added. MacDonald used the experiment in his sermon to illustrate that "it's hardest to love when the problem is most common, and the people are least known." "So how did our church do in the video?" he asked. "I am going to tell you now — awesome." MacDonald said, "I was crying inside that beard. I cannot believe the people at this church." Despite what the first few seconds of the video showed, that was only a small number of people compared to the numerous church members who approached MacDonald. "The number of people that prayed with me and brought me food," MacDonald said while getting emotional. The next clips in the video show dozens of people offering MacDonald coffee, water, food, money, prayer, and even the Word of God. Several people also invited the seemingly homeless man into the church to join the service and to see the love of God. "I dressed up as a homeless man and sat outside our church. What I witnessed blew me away," MacDonald wrote on Facebook.

If you have access to Internet, copy this link and go to the video online to listen to Bro. MacDonald show his people seeing this "homeless man" through the Eyes of Love.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=185761748984942>

SEEING THROUGH EYES OF LOVE Skit

(Two women are seated on a park bench. One woman (Judy) could be dressed to look like a nerdy scientist type. She is carrying a bag holding large sunglasses. The other woman (Marcy) could be in regular clothes.)

MARCY: Okay, Judy. I am here, ready to see your latest wacky invention! This one had better be more successful than the last one you made me experiment—do it yourself hair dye hat.... It took me months to get all the gunk out of my hair and even longer to be able to walk around with brown hair, not green!

JUDY: Oh, this is a winner, Marcy! Not at all like that hair dye hat.... I don't know what I was thinking, using Rustoleum spray paint.... Oh well, all's well that ends well.... And remember how great you looked for St. Patrick's Day!!! *(Marcy rolls her eyes and shakes her head)*

MARCY: I'm not putting ANYTHING in my hair!

JUDY: Deal!

MARCY: Good! So, what's your great invention this time?

JUDY: Well, *(pulls out outrageous glasses; if possible, a pair of oversized glasses you can usually find in the novelty sections)* TA DA!!!!

MARCY: Big ugly glasses? Ummm, Judy. I think those have already been invented. I saw them at the carnival last week, on a clown.....

JUDY: No! I didn't INVENT these glasses; I invented the special lenses. They are not just ordinary lenses.

MARCY: Oh, really? So, will they make me see stars when I look through them? Or will I see weird little aliens dancing around?

JUDY: No. These lenses have been treated to let you see through eyes of love.

MARCY: Huh?

JUDY: You will see people with eyes of love, just like Jesus sees them. Want to try them?

MARCY: *(skeptical)* Okay. What do I do—and promise me they won't turn my eyebrows pink or something!

JUDY: No, no, no.... you're so suspicious! Okay, before you put them on. I want you to find a person, any person you can see in this park, and describe them to me.

MARCY: I guess I can do that. At least you're not turning me pink or green! *(scanning the park, she focuses on someone)* Okay, I see a dirty bum over there. He is kind of scary, with a scraggly beard and filthy clothes. He is half asleep, probably drunk.

JUDY: Now, *(putting the glasses on her)* look at that man and tell me what you see through these glasses with these special lenses.

MARCY: *(gasping)* Oh, my. I see a handsome young man. He's wearing nice clothes and I think he might be feeling bad; yes, he's not drunk. He's... I think he's just hungry. He looks sad.

JUDY: Now look even closer. Look in his heart. *(adjusting the side of the glasses, as if turning a small knob)*

MARCY: *(straining as if looking closely)* What?! How is this happening? This is crazy! I see the man as a young boy who is crying because he's been abandoned. His parents deserted him on the street! He is scared and desperate. He's trying to find somewhere to sleep. How sad! I wish I could help him. He looks so hungry and cold.

JUDY: *(removing the glasses)* Well, you could help him. He's right over there.

MARCY: But that man is dirty and scary and maybe dangerous! I would be afraid to approach him!

JUDY: But he's the same young man you just saw, you know, the one you felt bad for when you saw him through the eyes of love in these glasses?

MARCY: Oh, yeah. HE wasn't scary. I could help that poor young man.

JUDY: Well, thanks to these glasses, you are seeing the same man. You're just seeing him before, before he was dirty and scary.

MARCY: Judy, these glasses are amazing! How in the world did you get the idea to invent them?

JUDY: I just read the Bible and saw how Jesus saw everybody through eyes of love. He didn't see dirty, scary, dangerous people. He saw people who had needs and He met them.

MARCY: I need those glasses, Judy.

JUDY: Actually, Marcy, you can just use your own eyes. You don't need the glasses. You just need to look at people the way Jesus sees them.

MARCY: Judy, thank you. Thank you for sharing these glasses with me. But especially, thank you for reminding me that I need to see others the way Jesus sees them. Now, let's go. I need to buy some food and a coat and share them, as well as God, with that young man.
(Ladies exit)



Our Bible study tells us to **FOCUS WITH INTENTION**. Intently focus on the four dots in this picture for thirty seconds then look up to a blank wall. Stare at the wall for a few seconds. Do you see a picture of Jesus?

This illustration is a good reminder to us to intently look to Jesus. If you had just glanced at the picture and looked away, you would not have seen Jesus. In the same way, if we don't intently seek Jesus and His Will, we will not see Him and follow Him.

FOCUS!

X F L T Q P B G O V S C O E T
Z T T U S E W P B S D I B W W
B T R C P M Q Y F K U R R Q A
X Y W O Q V K N I L P C M Z M
T E K C R R I E N R F U O K I
L S L S H W Q H T R O M D F F
D Q S B M K X P E P Z S C U I
Z S U C I N T E N S I T Y D P
Y J S T U S S T T I I A Z O A
Y L E V I T I S I U Q N I A X
A Z J I M U S V O K P C R S H
R B Z K T D G U N D L E Y U B
P U L P X Y X O M I Z S T V Q
U O R I H S O D X Y W O R E M
Y K Y Q Z D T M V T S Q P T R

Search and find these words from the Bible study.
Remember, focus!!!

CIRCUMSTANCES
FOCUS
INQUISITIVELY
INTENSITY
INTENTION
STUDY

INVISIBLE
JESUS
PETER
PRAY
STEPHEN

Answer Sheet:

FOCUS!

X F L T Q P B G O V S C O E T
Z T T U S E W P B S D I B W W
B T R C P M Q Y F K U R R Q A
X Y W O Q V K N I L P C M Z M
T E K C R R I E N R F U O K I
L S L S H W Q H T R O M D F F
D Q S B M K X P E P Z S C U I
Z S U C I N T E N S I T Y D P
Y J S T U S S T T I I A Z O A
Y L E V I T I S I U Q N I A X
A Z J I M U S V O K P C R S H
R B Z K T D G U N D L E Y U B
P U L P X Y X O M I Z S T V Q
U O R I H S O D X Y W O R E M
Y K Y Q Z D T M V T S Q P T R

Search and find these words from the Bible study.
Remember, focus!!!

CIRCUMSTANCES
FOCUS
INQUISITIVELY
INTENSITY
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STUDY

INVISIBLE
JESUS
PETER
PRAY
STEPHEN

June 2021
Theme: Fixing Our Eyes on Jesus (20/20 Vision)
"Eyes of Love"
Part 2

Summary: Traveling, praying, worshiping, expounding Scripture, healing, making disciples: Jesus put His whole being into loving people. What was His motivation? "He was moved with compassion" (Matthew 9:36). What is His resultant desire? Jesus yearns for His people "to have competent and accurate spiritual leadership."

Scriptures: Matthew 9:36; Matthew 14:14; Mark 1:41; Mark 6:34

Songs: "The Lord Is My Shepherd" *Rejoice*, page 604; "Gentle Shepherd" *Rejoice*, page 610; "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" *Rejoice*, page 611; "Bring Them In" *Rejoice*, page 355; "I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go" *Rejoice*, page 498; "If Jesus Goes with Me I'll Go" *Rejoice*, page 500; "The Regions Beyond" *Rejoice*, page 366; "People Need the Lord" (Steve Green/YouTube); "Each One, Reach One" (Babbie Mason/ YouTube); "Give Me Your Eyes" [Brandon Heath/YouTube (Official Music Video)]

Suggestions and Helps

Promotional Helps

Resources: Poster, invitation, and promo PowerPoint are available at <http://www.wnac.org/treasure/programhelps>.

Publicity: This study has an emphasis on personal discipleship. Each woman resolving to contact one other woman on a personal basis could go a long way to seeing additional women attend the study. The human voice contact, via telephone or face to face, may be a more persuasive influence for attendance than many nonverbal contacts.

Ice breaker: Prepare a quiz sheet for each attendee. This can be used not only as an ice breaker at the beginning of the study, but also as an ending event to summarize what has been learned after contemplating the presentation.



Instructions: Draw a head , heart , or hands  before each Scripture quote from Acts 18 to categorize whether it is "informational," "emotional," or "actionable."

_____ 1. "And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house" (8a).

_____ 2. "And many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized" (8b).

_____ 3. "For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city" (10).

_____ 4. "And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them" (11).

_____ 5. “Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace” (9).

_____ 6. “Saying, This fellow persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law (13).

Review after the program to see if any changes should be made to attendees’ answers.

Presentation: Pray to know the best way to approach your group in presenting this study, which centers on Jesus and the great love He displayed. On His journeys in various areas and cultures, He showed no partiality whether religious or financial. Reading Matthew 9:35-38 will add much to the listeners’ understanding of Jesus’ motivation and method of reaching people. Teaching and preaching can and should be used as partners in proclaiming the Truth. Jesus’ motivation was often His compassion for the multitudes. His heart went out to them. Remember He can see internal thoughts and history of individuals and know exactly what their real needs are. Also, Jesus knew how the earthly religious shepherds had failed the people. He resolved to be the Good Shepherd. The deep need for prayer for our earthly shepherds should be emphasized. The challenges of the Great Commission offer solutions to disciple making.

Thought-provoking questions are strategically placed throughout this study. These questions are water gates allowing the river of thought to flow from one topic to the next. Don’t miss the excellent fishing tips in the questions. Stop at each gate and dwell in meditation.

Testimony: Assign two to three women for testimonies regarding their experiences in reaching others with the love of Jesus for His kingdom.

Breakout Groups: Breakout groups can discuss how the women’s group can create “tangible demonstrations of the love of Christ”:

1. In home and among family – Each one knows who really needs that love at home and in what way. Let your family know you pray for their spiritual well-being.
2. In the church and among the women’s group – How about a quiet encouragement, seeking no acknowledgement for the donor?
3. In the community – Try to make this spiritually related. Donations to food pantries are needed, but what brings a lasting spiritual impact? Many groups are providing physical food, but the Church is the only group providing spiritual food. How can the Church do it more frequently and more effectively?
4. In age specific groups, such as children, teens, adults, and seniors – Will adults be the hardest group to encourage?

Further discussion and summaries brought back to the entire group could include concrete ideas for the women’s group and the Church to use.

Study

The author of the study explains a discipleship strategy called “d-groups.” Research this type of group which is created for an extended study of the entire Bible combined with journaling, memorizing Scripture, and accountability. Would this type of group flourish in your church congregation?

Missions

This study is not just an observation of Jesus’ going and teaching and discipling; it is also an inspiration to disciples to go and teach and disciple. Plan now for how your group can make opportunity to have an outreach event between now and the next meeting. If possible, work as a group. If not, then individually plan a goal and accomplish together with prayer as each goes, teaches, and disciples. Make this plan to reach out beyond the Sunday school class or women’s group that you already attend and lead. Praying, planning, producing will result in advancing, accomplishing, achieving.

Service

How can we be of service to those who currently are following Matthew 18:19-20 to “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen”?

First, define those who already going: teachers, preachers, missionaries, youth leaders, special ministry leaders. Second, what help do they need? Check with ministry leaders for their most urgent needs in several realms: spiritual, physical, financial. Third, pick a need your group can supply. Fourth, do what is needed to supply the need. It may be short term. It may be long term. Make some progress this month.

Prayer

Pray specifically by name for those who need salvation, who need redemption from sin’s grasp, who need healing spiritually, who need recovery from blinded spiritual eyesight, who need a closer walk with the Shepherd.

Refreshments

Shepherds have traditionally eaten bread and cheese for nourishment while tending their flocks. Create a shepherd’s rest and refresh break time with a variety of cheeses and unique breads, in small servings for one or two bites so shepherdesses can sample several offerings. An oatmeal or ginger cookie and a variety of teas and fruit drinks can round out the meal.

Extra

MERCY AND GRACE

Pour down Your mercy and grace
a gentle wash over this place

flooding my soul with love and compassion
above and beyond without ration

safeguarded by this spiritual connection
your hand holds the umbrella of protection

in the serenity of Your blessed assurance
humbly I bow in awestruck reverence

unforsaken by Your comforting nearness
my constant in spiritual awareness\

sustaining needs from the storehouse above
overwhelmed by Your unconditional love

forgive me despite my lowliness
bring me into the cathedral of Your holiness

this love I am surely not worthy of
let me take flight with Thy heavenly dove

with a final triumphant shout
take me above the clouds of doubt

soaring to higher places
seeing those familiar faces

leaving behind all the worlds adversity
singing hallelujah in the realms of eternity

through Salvation I am eternally blessed
the face of Jesus is where my eyes shall rest

Mary Altgilbers